

Community Development

Making Economic
Development Meaningful

What is Community Development

"Community development is a process conducted by community members. It is a process where local people can not only create more jobs, income and infrastructure, but also help their community become fundamentally better able to manage change."

Jim Cavaye

What is Community Development

Community development improves the situation of a community, not just economically, but also as a strong functioning community in itself.

Jim Cavaye

Community Development vs. Economic Development

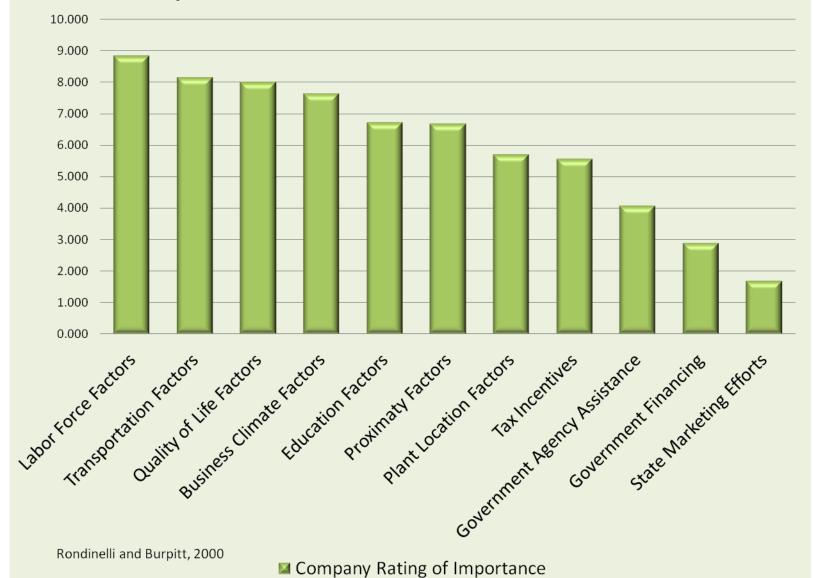
Economic Development

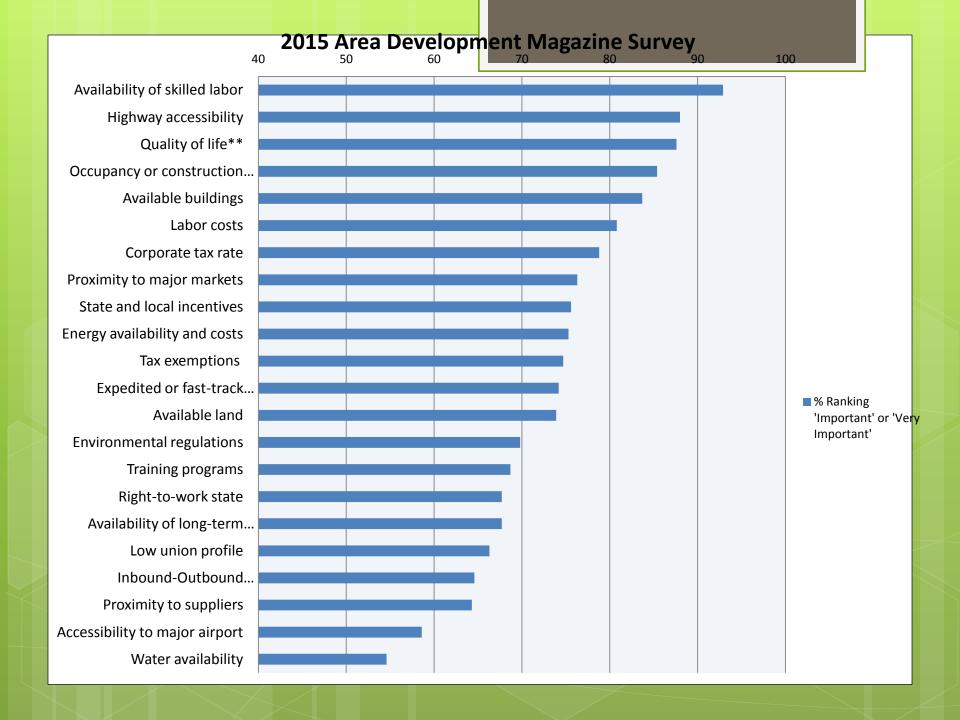
- Focus on job creation
- Uses incentives to encourage business location decisions
- Assumes that people will come where jobs are created

Community Development

- Focus on quality of life
- Businesses attracted to location with good quality of life
- Assumes businesses locate where quality labor exists

Importance of Factors In Business Location Decisions





The New Paradigm

People no longer follow jobs, jobs follow people

(Florida 2011; Litvak and Daniels 1983).

If this research is correct, then a community would be best off attracting people rather than spending resources attracting businesses

Why is Microsoft in Washington?

Main Client was in New Mexico Most Programmers were in Boston

Bill Gates was from the Seattle area and wanted to return

Community Development is Inherently Local

- Traditional Economic Development is one size fits all, jobs
- Community development is based on the needs and desires of each community
 - A waste water plant
 - A community center
 - Flood prevention
 - Homeless shelter
 - A baseball field

Community Development is Inherently Local

- Not just physical infrastructure, sometimes services are needed:
 - Soft skills training for youth
 - Summer jobs program
 - Financial skills training
 - Adult literacy
 - Cultural Programs





Local Government Role

